

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 030923Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9526

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0107

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, RP, ID, MY, SA

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH PHILIPPINE MUSLIM SECESSION-
ISTS

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 0008

B. TRIPOLI 1407

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR HAS TALKED WITH ME ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING PAST FEW DAYS ABOUT HIS PLANS TO
VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND POSSIBLY OTHER MID-EAST COUNTRIES
IN PURSUIT OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH MUSLIM
SECESSIONISTS FROM SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. BECAUSE OF
COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN SCHEDULE, HE IS EXPERIENCING
SOME DIFFICULTY IN FIXING A PRECISE PROGRAM.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, AL-TOHAMY, ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, IS
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EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MANILA TODAY, JANUARY 3, TO

DESCRIBE ARRANGEMENTS HE HAS MADE TO BRING MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) REPRESENTATIVE TO JIDDA FOR THIS PURPOSE. MOREOVER, INDONESIA FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK IS ARRIVING MANILA JANUARY 7, AND IS EXPECTED REPORTS LATEST RESULTS OF EFFORTS INDONESIANS HAVE BEEN MAKING, BOTH WITH MALAYSAINS AND MNLF. MELCHOR CONFIDES THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE DIFFICULT OT COORDINATE THESE TWO SEPARATE EXTERNAL INTERVENTIONS, AND FILIPINOS ARE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION THAT WILL OFFEND JAKARTA. I HAVE PROVIDED MELCHOR ESSENCE OF TOHAMY STATEMENT REPORTED IN LIBUAN PRESS (REF B).

3. AS FAR AS THE TRIP ITSELF IS CONCERNED, MELCHOR TENTATIVELY PLANS TO LEAVE MANILA JANUARY 15 (IMMEDIATELY AFTER MAW VISIT) AND GO STRAIGHT TO JIDDA. HE REALIZES HIS PRESENCE THERE MAY COINCIDE WITH THAT OF RAZAK (REF A)N BUT SEEMS UNCONCERNED BY THAT FACT. HE HOPES TO SEE KING FAISAL AND CONDUCT SOME BILATERAL SAUDI-PHILIPPINE BUSINESS IN ADDITION TO THE MEETINGS HE HAS SCHEDULED WITH MNLF. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPECT NUR MISUARI WILL BE AMONG MNLF REPRESENTATIVES HE WILL ENCOUNTER, BUT WULD BE PLEASED TO TALK WITH HIM IF HE IS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA.

4. MELCHOR SEEMS REALISTIC IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE LIMITED PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF HIS MISSION, BUT BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO START A DIALOGUE WITH THE MNLF LEADERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE UNKNOWN TO OFFICIAL MANILA. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY SMALL STAFF FROM HIS OWN OFFICE, WHO ARE EXPECTED TO HELP HIM LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR MORE DETAILED SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.
SULLIVAN

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